



INDIANA COMMISSION
HIGHER EDUCATION

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**Community College of Indiana off to a Great Start – More Hoosiers
Participate in Higher Education**

The new Community College of Indiana is making an impressive debut with 2,346 more students taking classes this fall at the first four CCI campuses.

Enrollment figures just released by the Commission for Higher Education show the Community College of Indiana in Indianapolis gained an unprecedented 1,323 students, a 21.7% increase in headcount over fall of 1999. Enrollment in Evansville jumped 529, a gain of 16.2%. Headcount at Lafayette grew by 15.5%, for an additional 429 students. The Gary campus added 65 students, a 3.1% increase.

The sites became Community College of Indiana campuses through Ivy Tech State College's partnership with Vincennes University. Combining Ivy Tech's strong technical programs with Vincennes' liberal arts programs, the partnership provides Indiana citizens with a comprehensive community college system – something already in place in 43 other states.

"This is a huge increase in the number of Hoosiers pursuing higher education. It's especially impressive to see enrollment grow so dramatically while the economy is in such good shape. Typically, when times are good, people are less motivated to seek additional education," said Stan Jones, Indiana's Commissioner for Higher Education.

"This is an impressive start. And it is especially encouraging because it shows Hoosiers are seizing the opportunity to sharpen their knowledge and skills and build better lives for themselves and their families," said Governor Frank O'Bannon, who in 1999 asked the Indiana General Assembly to create a state community college system.

"In record numbers, our citizens are showing they believe in lifelong learning, which is so important to keeping our people and state competitive in the challenging, global economy," the Governor added.

The enthusiasm about the new community college is contributing to enrollment growth at future CCI sites across the state. Ivy Tech State College reports enrollment has increased across all campuses by a record-breaking 6,533 students, an increase of 17.3% over last fall. New Ivy

Tech facilities in South Bend and Lawrenceburg saw an increase in students of 704 and 160 respectively. Other sites with impressive gains include Terre Haute (534 students) and Elkhart (185 students).

“The new community college is the only thing that can explain these unprecedented increases,” said Commissioner Jones. “We’re seeing the results of the initiative’s statewide tuition freeze, aggressive marketing efforts and public awareness campaign. There’s obviously a growing understanding by Hoosiers that additional education and training is necessary to succeed in today’s changing economy.”

“We are thrilled to be able to expand our strong technical training programs and build additional business and industry partnerships that will open new doors to employees and employers across the state,” said Gerald Lamkin, President of Ivy Tech State College. “The Community College of Indiana is giving us an opportunity to bring our programs to more people – and that’s good for Indiana’s workforce and our economy.”

According to Dr. Phillip Summers, President of Vincennes University, the numbers show that awareness is building about the Community College. “When we launched this initiative, we knew it would take time for people to grasp the concept. We are very encouraged by this fall’s enrollment as it demonstrates that more Indiana residents are taking advantage of the educational opportunities offered in their local communities.”

In January 1999, the Governor announced the creation of the state community college system as an aggressive step in improving adult participation in higher education. Endorsed by the General Assembly, the Community College of Indiana will expand to all 23 Ivy Tech campuses over the next 6 years.

Statistics indicate that adult participation in higher education is low (3.3%) when compared to other states with community colleges. While Indiana is producing bachelor’s degrees at a rate of 20 percent more than the national average, Indiana falls below the national average for associate degrees. More information is available, toll-free, at 1-888-489-5463, or on the Community College of Indiana website: www.ccindiana.net.